



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE SPECIAL  
MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES**

**FIRST 5 LA  
750 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, November 3, 2014**

**1:00 PM**

***DRAFT***

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-5179)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (14-4501)

**The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.**

Present: Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang,  
Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Adrienne  
Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner  
Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Commissioner Martha  
Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Chair Susan F.  
Friedman

Absent: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Candace Cooper,  
Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas  
Esq. and Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Introduction of November 3, 2014 meeting attendees. (14-4711)

**Self-introductions were made.**

2. Approval of the November 3, 2014 Meeting Agenda. (14-4724)

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger,  
Cooper, Franzen, Olivas, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the  
Commission approved this item.**

**II. REPORTS**

3. Chair's report for the November 3, 2014 by Susan Friedman. (14-4891)

**Chair Friedman reported on the following:**

**The Honorable Michael Nash's retirement will be on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP if interested in attending.**

**Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky will have a Farewell Celebration for 40 Years of Public Service on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP by November 5, 2014, if interested in attending.**

**Friendly reminder that the Commission for Children and Families' Christmas Party will be held on December 15, 2014, is anticipated to be held at the newly renovated Grand Central Market.**

**National Adoption Day is on November 22, 2014, earmarking 15 years of adoption. This great day will be held at the Edelman Children's Court. There will be approximately 200 adoptions on that day with volunteer judges present to ensure all adoptions are processed appropriately.**

**The Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative will hold a meeting on November 19, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the 28th Street YMCA. Please contact the Chair if interested in attending.**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Cooper, Franzen, Olivas, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission accepted Chair Friedman's report.**

### **III PRESENTATIONS**

**4. Presentation of First 5 LA by:**

**Kim Belshé - Introductions**

**Genie Chough - Long Term Financial Projection**

**Jessica Kaczmarek - Strategic Plan 2015-20**

**Barbara Dubransky - Welcome Baby/Home Visitation**

**Antoinette Andrew and Rafael Gonzalez - Building Stronger Families Framework**

**Mabel Munoz - Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) Update (14-4937)**

**Kim Belshé, Executive Director, First 5 LA introduced herself and the staff involved in the administration of First 5 LA. Ms. Belshé further informed the Commission that the First 5 LA Commission is in the process of approving a new Strategic Plan 2015-2020 entitled "Focusing for the Future". The goal is to live within their means and focus on the Strategic and Fiscal Imperatives with the financial reality in mind. The new governance guideline is based on systems and policy change. The promise is to provide the maximum Impact while focusing on the future and**

making sure the services are available for all. Emphasis will be placed on strong relationships with the parents and community.

Genie Chough, Director of Finance, joined First 5 LA in July 2013 with over 18 years of experience in the public and non-profit sectors.

Ms. Chough spoke on the following three items:

1. Revenue and Expenditures,
2. Fund Balance and
3. Conclusion.

Ms. Chough reported that if the current state of expenditures exceeding incoming revenue continues, the First 5 LA Commission will run out of funds in Fiscal Year 2018-19.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Chough and Ms. Belshé responded with the following:

The Commission is researching additional resources and alternative revenue as some of the programs grants are ending. The State Commission is actively seeking complementary revenue options.

- Contracts are based on service and deliverables. Contracts are monitored for performance and a few of the contracts that were under-performing were terminated.

Jessica Kaczmarek, Director, Office of Strategic Planning and Implementation of First 5 LA, works on the organizations strategic planning efforts for the next five years. The four main points of listening and learning are:

What are the needs?

What should First 5 LA's role be?

Where are the gaps?

How can First 5 LA make the most significant change?

The lessons learned are the following: Parents are critical to a child's physical and socio-emotional health and cognitive development. Parents and caregivers must be empowered to help their child through access to information, social connections and resources.

**Communities need to be strengthened, in terms of their capacity, to support families. There are gaps in health and early education systems, policies and practices.**

**The four Outcomes prioritized are:**

- **Increased family protective factors.**
- **Increased community capacity to support and promote the safety, healthy development and well-being of children from prenatal to age five and their families.**
- **Increased access to quality Early Care and Education (ECE).**
- **Improved capacity of health services systems to meet the needs of children from prenatal age to five and their families.**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Kaczmarek replied the goal is to identify and promote best practices around trauma-informed care that improve service delivery system for Children 0-5 and their families. The Latino population is growing and the demographic of the county is changing. In terms of third grade reading proficiency there is a disparity for Latino and African Americans: reading proficiently is 38% (Latino) and 29% (African American). There are a number of permanent housing investments for placement of children in place for a number of years but more is needed and housing is enormously expensive.**

**Barbara Dubransky, Senior Program Officer, Program Development, at First 5 LA provided a report on Welcome Baby Overview. She reported the program includes Universal home visiting for pregnant women and postpartum women. The program serves women living within and outside of Best Start communities and who are delivering at participating hospitals. This is a free program providing support and information to pregnant women and new mothers at the hospital and in the home.**

**The Welcome Baby Program Goals include:**

- **Parents provide enriching, structured, and nurturing environments.**
- **Parents have self-efficacy and resiliency.**
- **Children and mothers are healthy**
- **Families essential needs are addressed**

**Intensive Home Visiting Programs models include:**

- **Evidence-based national models which are aligned to First 5 LA Goals:**

- Children safe from abuse and neglect
- Children ready for kindergarten
- Each Best Start Communities Choses a Home Visiting Program to be implemented in their community:
  - Healthy Families America
  - Parents As Teachers
  - Triple P

There are a total of 23 Service sites across Best Start Communities.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Dubransky reported staff has referred children and babies to the Department of Children and Families. The children data network is the most promising way to locate children in the long run, identify a parent's mental disorder refer them for care.

Rafael Gonzales, Director, Best Start Communities for First 5 LA, reported the framework assures that families are strong and develop protective factors, making sure services support and promote healthy families. The Board has reaffirmed the commitment for healthy families, emphasizing on strategic partnerships and alliances.

Antoinette Andrews, Assistant Director of Planning Implementation, Best Start Communities, First 5 LA, reported the goal is working together and building strong families. Emphasize on lessons learned and attempt to align investments with the scope, scale and sustainability of the programs.

Mabel Munoz, First 5 LA, shared a Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) contract overview which includes \$58 Million for investment with \$20 Million set aside for research and evaluation. Initially the program was a five year investment from 2004 through 2009. The program was extended because the tax initiative for this program failed in 2006.

#### Program Overview

- Access and Quality
- Provide quality early learning preschool for four years old.
- Steadily increased the number of children served.
- Rated over 600 classrooms and over 300 centers for quality and Improvement

**Policy and Advocacy**

- The goal is to change public will and public policies to further the goal of universal preschool

**Evaluation Components**

- Universal Preschool Child Outcomes Study
- Language, Literacy, Cognitive and Social-emotional Development
- Parent Engagement
- Measured through provider assessments

Current efforts for (2014-16) include the existing contract which ends on June 30, 2016. Flexibility is provided in the current contract. The goal is to maximize the number of children served for natural attrition. Evaluation is focused on preschool quality and child outcomes. Policy and advocacy are focused on increasing quality and access.

LAUP's new strategic Plan and Business Model includes early education based on quality and excellence. Strategic partnerships and organizational development for advocacy including building the public will.

Moving forward, First 5 LA and LAUP will work jointly to align business interests and shared priorities on expanding access to preschool, quality improvement and workforce development.

Commissioner Sorkin stated the United Way has demonstrated the importance of knowledge building beginning with the first birthday; waiting for four years of age to begin the process of teaching is too late.

In a response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Munoz that currently there is not any formal connection in place between best start and the DCFS offices.

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
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**IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Matters Not Posted**

5. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters

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requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4926)

**There were none.**

**Announcements**

6. Announcements for the meeting of November 3, 2014. (14-4927)

**There were none.**

**Public Comment**

7. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4928)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

8. Adjournment of the meeting of November 3, 2014. (14-4929)

**With warm thanks to Kim Belshe and her outstanding staff, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.**